

Table 7-26. TANF Work Participation Rates, U.S.Average: FY1997 through FY2009

Fiscal Year	Official Rate	Rate Absent "Grandfathered" Work Rule Waivers	Official Rate	Rate Absent "Grandfathered" Work Rule Waivers
1997	30.7%		44.5%	
1998	35.3		42.4	
1999	38.3		54.7	
2000	34.0	29.7%	48.9	42.1%
2001	34.4	29.9	51.1	42.8
2002	33.4	28.9	49.4	44.2
2003	31.3	27.5	48.4	41.8
2004	32.2	29.4	47.4	45.3
2005	33.0	30.3	42.6	40.8
2006	32.5	30.6	45.9	45.9
2007	29.7	29.7	35.7	35.7
2008	29.4	29.4	27.6	27.6
2009	29.4	29.4	28.3	28.3

Source: Congressional Research Service (CRS) based on data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Note: The 1996 welfare reform law allowed states with "waivers" of pre-1996 program work requirements to continue their waiver program until their expiration. Thus, work participation rates for waiver states incorporated those states' work exemptions, rules for countable activities, and work hours. In total 20 states used their waiver rules in FY2000. These waivers gradually expired, the last being Tennessee's waiver that expired on June 30, 2007. From FY2000 to FY2007, HHS reported both the official rate (which included waiver rules for the applicable states) and a rate "absent" the grandfathered waivers. The rate absent grandfathered waivers showed what the work participation rate would have been in those years if only federal rules were applied. Federal rules applied to all states in FY2008 and FY2009.